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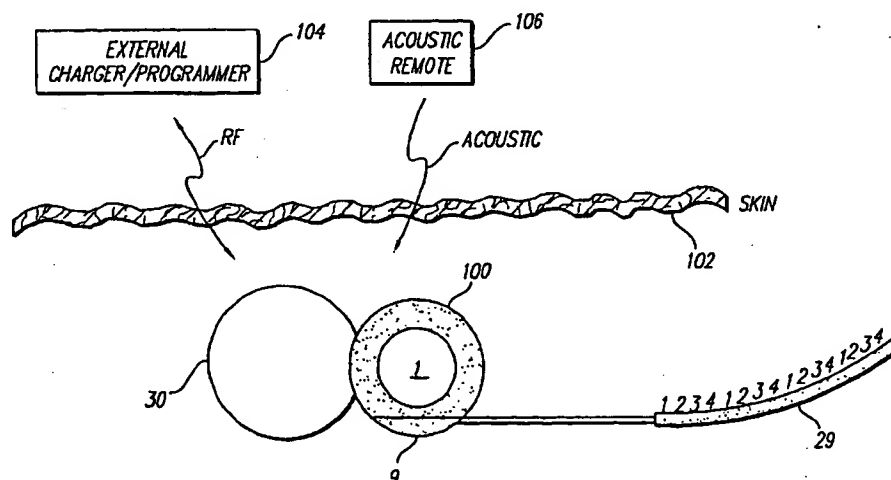
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: HIGH CONTACT COUNT, SUB-MINIATURE FULLY IMPLANTABLE COCHLEAR PROSTHESIS



(57) Abstract: A fully implantable cochlear prosthesis includes: (a) an implantable hermetically sealed case (100) wherein electronic circuitry including a battery and an implantable microphone (1), are housed, (b) an active electrode array (29) that provides a programmable number of active electrode contacts through which stimulation current may be selectively delivered to surrounding tissue, preferably through the use of appropriate stimulation groups, and (c) a connector (9) that allows the active electrode array to be detachably connected with the electronic circuitry within the sealed case. The active electrode array provides a large number of both medial contacts and lateral contacts, any one of which may be selected to apply a stimulus pulse through active switching elements included within the array. The hermetically sealed case within which the electronic circuitry, battery, and microphone are housed may be replaced, when needed, through minimally invasive surgery. Further, the electronic circuitry housed within the hermetically sealed case may be programmed, as needed, using acoustic signals from an acoustic remote control (106) and/or RF control signals from an external programmer (104).

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 814 095 A (LEYSIEFFER HANS ET AL) 29 September 1998 (1998-09-29) claims; figure 4	1,2,8-13
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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